A struck-by hazard causes injuries due to forcible contact or impact between the affected person and an object or piece of equipment. Here are a few examples of how Struck-By hazards are so dangerous.

STRUCK-BY HAZARD EXAMPLES

In the first example, a construction worker was hauling bricks in a bucket to the top of a structure. When the bucket shifted, the bricks spilled out and hit the worker in the head. In the second example, a pick-up vehicle changed lanes to enter the work area. Four workers were putting up roadway signs nearby. As the vehicle changed lanes, one of the workers was hit and knocked off the road and over a bridge rail.

In another example. While working on construction site on an interstate highway bridge, a construction inspector crossed path with an equipment truck. Walking into the path of a passing end loader, he was run over and killed.

And, When a laborer went between an excavator and a hillside, he was struck by the excavator's counterweight and whirling superstructure. Then, there's the worker who was operating an overhead crane when a 7000-pound metal plate detached from the lifting clamp and plummeted, striking and killing him.

If you are still wondering what a struck-by hazard might be, consider this. If any of these phrases describe an accident, chances are, the accident was a Struck By Hazard.

- A soaring object collided with
- A falling object collided with
- A swinging object collided with, and a rolling object collided with.

Flying Object Hazard

When something is tossed, hurled, or propelled over space, it creates a flying object hazard. The risks would include situations in which a piece of material breaks off from a tool, machine, or other piece of equipment and strikes a worker, causing injury or death.

If an object is expelled under power by a tool or equipment that is normally designed for that function, such as a nail from a nail gun, a hazard occurs. Force is used to push the nail from the cannon. Pneumatic or powder-actuated forces can be used.

Flying objects can potentially be a concern when compressed air is used. Compressed air is widely utilized to clean surfaces and power tools.

Struck-By Swinging Object

A struck-by-swinging object accident can occur when materials are mechanically raised, As these materials swing around, workers can be harmed if they aren't aware of their surroundings.

The most typical source of this danger is with cranes. When an object rolls, moves, or slides on the same level as the worker, it creates a "struck-by-rolling-object" hazard.
This hazard involves being struck or run over by a moving vehicle without being caught underneath it. It can also mean being struck by a sliding object or piece of equipment on the same level.

EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

Employers must protect workers from being struck by vehicles and objects on the worksite. Because hazards exist, control measures prevent or reduce injuries from struck-by hazards exist. Workers must ensure control measures are in place to stay safe. For instance, workers should always wear safety glasses, goggles, or a face shield when using power tools and must always wear hard hats anytime they're on the job site.

Did you know that nail gun accidents are one of the most common struck-by-flying object hazards?

When working on a project that involves heavy equipment, Stay away from it when heavy equipment is in use. And, be aware of the location of all heavy equipment, whether it's in use or not.

Stay clear of lifted loads, and never work under a suspended load. Also be on the lookout for unbalanced loads. Confirm and receive acknowledgement from the heavy equipment operator that you're visible. And if you have to deive equipment and vehicles, make sure you do so on properly constructed and maintained grades or highways.

Before employing dumping or lifting equipment, make sure that all workers and other persons are safe. When not in use, lower or block the bulldozer and scraper blades, end-loader buckets, dump bodies, and other components, and set all controls to neutral.

VEHICLES

At construction sites, vehicle safety standards must be followed to limit worker exposure to struck-by risks such as swinging backhoes, falling/overturning vehicles, or trucks or cars. To avoid these dangers, workers should always wear seat belts if they are available and check their vehicle before each shift to ensure that all parts and accessories are in good working order.

Unless the vehicle has an audible reverse alert, or a worker signals that it's safe, avoid driving in reverse with obstructed rear vision. When parking cars and equipment, apply the parking brakes and chock the wheels if they are on an incline. Ensure that vehicles are equipped with proper braking systems and other safety features. And, when construction is taking place near public roads, use traffic signs, barricades, or flaggers.

When working on or near a construction zone: Wear high-visibility luminous clothes, be alert of vehicle traffic, and avoid becoming trapped in a scenario where there is no way out.

Flaggers are only allowed to guide traffic.
Double-check that all appropriate warning signs are posted.
And, follow the project traffic plan for "Exit" and "Entry."

Compressed Air

When working with compressed air, if cleaning, reduce air pressure to 30 psi and use only with suitable guarding and protective equipment. Never use compressed air to clean your clothes. And, if you're working with hand tools, avoid any tool with splintered, broken, or loose handles.

Machinery

When working with machines such as jackhammers and pavement saws, always ensure you've been taught how to operate the machine. Examine it, and double check that all guards are in place and working properly. Hearing protection is a must when working with machines. And don't forget your hearing protection and to protect your feet with work boots, your eyes with safety glasses, your ears with hearing protection, and your hands with gloves.

Overhead Work

If you're performing overhead work, make sure all your tools and materials have been secured. Are there toe boards, screens, guardrails, and debris netting? Set up a barricade and put-up notice signs. Make sure materials that are stored in buildings under construction are at least 6 feet away from hoist ways and floor openings. They also be at least 10 feet away from an outside wall.

Power Tools

When working with power tools, make sure you know how to safely handle the tool, inspect it before each use, protect your eyes with safety glasses, follow the manufacturer's directions, and make double sure the safety guards are in place.

Pulling Objects

If you'll be pulling objects that could become airborne, stack and secure the objects to prevent them from sliding or collapsing, keep the work area free of clutter, and keep the materials protected from gusty winds.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal protective equipment is very important when it comes to flying or falling objects. Any time work processes provide an eye hazard, safety glasses or goggles should be worn. Welding, cutting, and grinding are good examples. When there is a risk of falling objects or bumps to the head from fixed objects, wear a hard hat, but make sure you inspect the hard hat for dents, cracks, and degradation on a regular basis; replace after a strong hit and keep your hat in good working order.

It’s the employer's duty to identify potential hazards and maintain a safe working environment when working with heavy machinery. The Employer must evaluate potential threats and maintain a safe environment around motor vehicles.

The Employer must ensure that tools are kept in good working order, that they are utilized correctly, and that they are supplied with guards as needed. And, the employer must provide the necessary PPE and ensure that it is worn as directed.